

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 293

By Cobb C

A RESOLUTION expressing support for the location of the United States Air Force's Common Battlefield Airman Training program at Arnold Air Force Base near Manchester, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the realities of modern warfare increasingly place United States Air Force (USAF) airmen in ground combat situations, as evidenced in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, USAF has established seven specialties for battlefield airmen who, as defined by Air Force Directive, "primarily operate as surface combatants removed from traditional air base support, logistics, and sortie generation efforts"; and

WHEREAS, in order to establish a baseline skill set for all battlefield airmen and to expand their ground combat skills, USAF is implementing the Common Battlefield Airman Training (CBAT) program, which will be administered by the Air Education and Training Command (AETC); and

WHEREAS, when fully implemented, CBAT will train approximately 14,410 airmen annually in combat small arms firing, basics of land navigation, small unit tactics, combative skills, and operational teamwork, along with providing a daily physical training regimen; and

WHEREAS, Arnold Air Force Base near Manchester, which houses Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC), is a finalist along with two other USAF facilities to serve as the host site of the CBAT program; and

WHEREAS, Arnold Air Force Base offers the most competitive cost environment of the three installations being considered as the future home of the CBAT program; and

WHEREAS, Arnold Air Force Base has demonstrated its ability to quickly and efficiently absorb CBAT operations and maintenance requirements into the existing support contract; and

WHEREAS, the location of CBAT at Arnold Air Force Base would ensure full operational control of administrative and training areas and improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the program; and

WHEREAS, the location of CBAT at Arnold Air Force Base would leverage USAF-owned, but currently under-used, installation facilities and acreage to meet the requirements of a major enhancement to USAF training activities; and

WHEREAS, training could begin immediately at Arnold Air Force Base through the use of existing Tennessee Army National Guard and Tennessee Corrections Academy facilities, including a firing range, barracks, and a pool, thus enabling the AETC to test the CBAT syllabus without expending significant upfront funds on buildings, training facilities, or infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, due to the availability of 30,000 acres of USAF-owned land contiguous to the facility, Arnold Air Force Base provides significant capability for expansion of the training area, if required, for future changes in combat tactics, weapons systems, or student through-put capacity; and

WHEREAS, Arnold Air Force is equidistant in travel time from Nashville, Chattanooga, and Huntsville and is served by commercial air service from all three airports; the accessibility of more than one major airport would provide significant travel alternatives for CBAT in case of unexpected weather or road or runway closures; and

WHEREAS, the availability of a 6,000 feet airstrip at Arnold Air Force Base would provide future flexibility for troop, unit, or equipment deployments; and

WHEREAS, the location of CBAT at Arnold Air Force Base would recapture Arnold's heritage and history of training combat forces, which include General Patton's "Tennessee Maneuvers" during World War II; and

WHEREAS, CBAT is totally compatible with and complementary to AEDC, the most advanced and largest complex of flight simulation test facilities in the world; the two missions would not compete for available support or training areas, but rather would be uniquely positioned to take maximum advantage of USAF-owned assets and resource efficiencies created by amortizing the installation's operations over more robust operational activities; and

WHEREAS, AEDC has the type and diversity of vegetation and water characteristics required for field training in land navigation, small unit tactics for combat skills, and an active daily physical training regimen; and

WHEREAS, AEDC and Arnold Air Force Base are responsible for in excess of \$675 million in annual economic impact throughout the Tennessee counties surrounding the facility; the addition of CBAT at Arnold Air Force Base will increase that already sizeable fiscal impact by another \$300 million annually; and

WHEREAS, CBAT would bring to the community more than 800 new permanent jobs, in addition to the existing 2200 jobs at AEDC; additionally, more than 14,000 airmen would undergo CBAT training at the facility annually, which would further positively impact the local economy; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that for the aforementioned reasons, this General Assembly strongly urges and encourages the United States Air Force to locate the Common Battlefield Airman Training program at Arnold Air Force Base near Manchester, Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge and encourage Tennessee's Congressional delegation to use the full measure of their influence, both individually and collectively, to facilitate the location of USAF's Common Battlefield Airman Training program at Arnold Air Force Base.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary and the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force and to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.